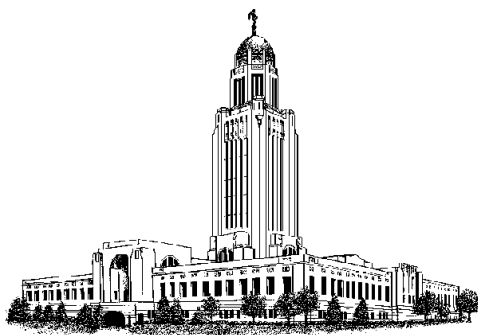


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State Services Relocation bill, LB 935, will bring proposed State services relocations to Legislature for approval

LB 935 was introduced today by Senator Mike Gloor in response to the process used to pit cities against each other in a bidding process for an existing State service, creating a win-lose scenario. That bidding process was used to propose a new location for the Grand Island Veteran's Home. LB 935 would apply a legislative process to the proposed relocation of any state service estimated to cost \$15 Million or more.

"Other states long ago recognized the duty for legislative oversight of proposed state agency relocations in their statutes and constitutions," Gloor stated. "It is time for Nebraska's Legislature to formally recognize it, as well."

The bill would require that state agencies considering a relocation of a state service prepare a report to describe, justify, set goals and estimate costs of the proposed relocation, along with any alternative plans. Additionally, the report would need to include any economic development activity undertaken or planned to fill the economic hole left in the impacted community.

The report would be assigned to the legislative committee of jurisdiction to investigate the proposal and hold at least one hearing on the proposed relocation. The Committee would then introduce a resolution to either approve or disapprove of the relocation, or take no position. That resolution would then go to the full Legislature for one round of debate, possible amendment, and a vote. A majority of 25 votes could approve the resolution and the position of the Committee. Less than 25 votes would be taking no position, thereby allowing the proposed relocation. If the full Legislature votes to disapprove of the relocation the proposed relocation will not take place.

“Never before had a Veteran’s Home in Nebraska moved to a new location without multiple hearings and opportunities for public input. However, the statutes and constitution do not specify legislative oversight. This bill would require any state agency relocation proposal through a transparent legislative process,” Gloor stated. “At least then the Legislature would be able to provide the public with opportunities for input and cities would be assured that the decision is made with the interest of both cities, and the state as a whole, taken into consideration.”

Senator Annette Dubas, Fullerton, is a co-signer. “I am happy to co-sign and support this bill,” she said. “It’s important for everyone to have a clear understanding of the rules and goals when relocating facilities. We need state policies that help build collaboration across the state, not tear down.”

Exceptions to the bill would be Nebraska colleges and universities, the courts, constitutional offices plus the Public Service Commission and the Department of Education which are established by the Nebraska Constitution, and the Legislature.

The bill as introduced would be applicable to any relocation proposed since January 1, 2013. Therefore, it would apply to the proposed relocation of the Grand Island Veteran’s Home unless all funding sources are secured or conditionally approved before the effective date of the bill.